

MOTION FORM FOR SI GA 2018 BRI-002

1. Heading for motion (No more than 10 words)

A Commission to consider organisational change in Servas.

2. Member Group(s) proposing motion (note that only SI Exco and Member Groups may propose motions)

Servas Britain

3. Exact wording of the motion to be voted on

The SI GA approves the setting up of a Commission by SI Exco to investigate options for a new global structure that incorporates both Servas International and national member groups. It will:

1. Identify where there are barriers to change.
2. Explore the viability of a range of organisational models to meet the changing needs of Servas whilst retaining its core values as a peace organisation.

The Commission will work to a clearly defined remit and prepare a report with recommendations for consultation with national member groups and the wider membership.

One of the models to be considered would be that of an extended SI board of 12 elected members from which 6 Exco members would be selected.

Where options involve changes to the SI statutes these would be decided upon at the next General Assembly in 2021.

In order for the Commission to carry out its work 3000 CHF for a face-to-face meeting, to be utilized over three years until SICOGA 2021, will be allocated from the SI budget.

4. Background information and reasons for proposing the motion

Following the transition to ServasOnline, various ideas for a new global structure has been circulating that could better serve the needs of Servas for the future. Some models would potentially incorporate the functions of Servas International with those of its independent member groups, operating currently as a federation.

Many challenges still face Servas if it is to become a viable online organisation- able to find the financial resources needed to maintain its core functions whilst also retaining its valued identity as a peace organisation.

Some of the options would mean moving to become a single international organisation which would bring to an end the federated structure where each member group has autonomy to manage its own internal affairs.

There may be reluctance from many members to go that far. So a 'hybrid' solution could offer ways of retaining the national identity of member groups whilst at the same time dealing with some critical issues around finance and increasing pressures on volunteers working for SI.

Some careful analysis is required that not only looks at the benefits of each option for change but also the risks and potential unintended consequences. As the number of Servas members continues to reduce year by year it could be said that the proposal for a Commission would only further delay making the urgent changes needed if Servas is to survive. Equally it could be said that piecemeal change aimed at resolving some but not all problems would also have its risks.

5. Who is responsible for accomplishing the results of the motion?

SI Exco would be responsible for setting up the Commission then identifying and appointing a suitably qualified Chair to take the project forward. Recruitment of other members of the Commission would be the joint responsibility of the Chair and SI Exco.

6. Benefits for SI

The Commission would gather information and explore possibilities for a future structure for Servas in a systematic way and so be in a position to make clear recommendations about the best way forward. It would consider of a range of organisational models in detail to highlight the positive and negative aspects of each model. It would also be able to identify possible unintended consequences of any proposed changes.

7. Resource needs - time, human resources and specialist expertise

A significant time commitment would be required from the chair and other members of the Commission over a 3 year period. A range of expertise and experience would be needed among the group recruited to work on the Commission.

8. Budget implications

In order for the Commission to carry out its work it is proposed that 500 CHF for each of three years is allocated from the SI budget. This could include a contribution towards the cost of any face to face meetings for all or part of the Commission. During its investigation some face to face contact between members of the Commission and key people in Servas may also be required.

9. Does it affect the SI statutes?

Any significant changes to the structure of Servas would require a review of the statutes.

10. What is the impact if the motion is not passed?

Without careful consideration of all options for change in the Servas structure there would be a danger that the organisation would continue to evolve through ad hoc and uncoordinated

development.

For Minute Taker Use Only:

Amendments (Passed or defeated)

Final Motion (Passed or defeated)